Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian Manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to alley fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at districts level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

(e) No such warning has been received from WHO.

Malpractices by the private medical colleges

192. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for new medical colleges to obtain prior approval of Medical Council of India (MCI) before commencing academic curriculum, including admission of students;

(b) if so, salient details of the extant rules;

(c) the details of instances, if any, during the last five years where newly set up private medical colleges carried on with their business of admitting students despite refusal of MCI to grant them requisite approval;

(d) the action taken, if any, by Government against them for violation of statutory rules; and

(e) steps contemplated, if any, for strengthening MCI, including reinforcement of its autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per Section 10A(4) of Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956, the Central Government may, after considering the scheme and the recommendations of Council and after obtaining such other particulars as may be considered necessary from the person or college concerned either approve or disapprove the scheme and any such approval shall be a permission under Section 10A(1). Hence, Medical Council of India (MCI) is a recommendatory body and the Central Government is the final authority to grant permission for establishment of new medical college in country.

(c) and (d) As per information available, during the last five years, no newly set up private medical college has admitted students without seeking prior approval of the Central Government.

(e) In order to improve the functioning of Medical Council of India, the Central Government has introduced Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill 2005 in August 2005 for consideration.

Establishing of AIIMS like hospitals in States

193. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government promises included setting up of AIIMS, New Delhi category hospitals in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present status of realization of the said promise;

(c) whether Government has estimated cost involved in setting up facilities of AIIMS category, including cost of land at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating recurring cost involved in running of each; and

(e) the details of time-frame contemplated, if any, for completion of establishment of the promised AIIMS category hospitals in States indicating funds allocated for the said purpose for respective sites?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up six AIIMS-like institutions one each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneshwar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh).

The Design-DPR consultants appointed for preparation of Designs and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for medical college and hospital complex have submitted the Detailed Project Report with revised cost estimates in December, 2008. The same is under circulation to the apprising Authorities for eliciting their comments before obtaining the formal approval to the revised cost estimates. Tenders for selection of contractor is proposed to be issued in July, 2009. Project Consultants have been appointed for each site for expeditious execution of the work.

(c) and (d) The estimated cost of each AIMS-like institution as per Detailed Projects Report and firmed up cost for residential complex is Rs.847 Crore. The State Governments have provided about 100 acres of Land free of cost at each site. The recurring expenditure for each institution is estimated around Rs.125 Crore approximate.

(e) Hospital-medical college complex is likely to be completed by September, 2011. The institutions will be functional by the end of 2011. In so far as construction of residential complex is concerned, the work is started at all the sites and it is expected to complete in 2009-10.